

Sinclair Broadcasting's action requiring their stations to air Stolen Honor, a blatantly anti-Kerry piece, just before the election scares me. Demanding that this program preempt regularly scheduled programming sounds like political bias of major proportions. Aren't public air waves obligated to serve the public interest?

Locally-owned stations would recognize such bias or at least air a pro-Kerry piece in the interest of fairness. But when large companies control the airwaves, common fairness standards, public interest, and effective democracy can be trashed in favor of whatever the corporation considers its advantage.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Obviously the license renewal process needs to involve public hearings so that such trampling of basic community media rights can be prevented. Thank you.